



District Eight King County Councilmember **Dow Constantine**

Spring 2006

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Welcome to the new Eighth Council District!

On January 1, the Eighth Council District expanded. The district boundaries leaped over the Duwamish River and spread eastward across the industrial valley, through Georgetown and up Beacon Hill and West Hill (Skyway); swept northward into Pioneer Square and the International District/Chinatown to the center of Downtown Seattle; and stretched southward to take in the northern parts of Tukwila and SeaTac, and the entire cities of Burien and Normandy Park.

It's a big district.

The new boundaries implement the voter-mandated reduction in the number of King County Councilmembers from 13 to nine. The population of each district rises from the previous 138,000 people (a state legislative district, by comparison, has a population of 125,000 and is represented by three legislators) to almost 200,000 people!

I will now have the privilege of representing an even livelier and more diverse district—one that still includes White Center, South Park, Burien, Vashon/Maury Islands, and my lifelong home of West Seattle. Representing so many people over such a large area will be a real challenge, and I am relying on you to help me stay informed about community issues and events.

Whether you are an old friend or a brand-new constituent, I look forward to the chance to speak with you personally in the near future.

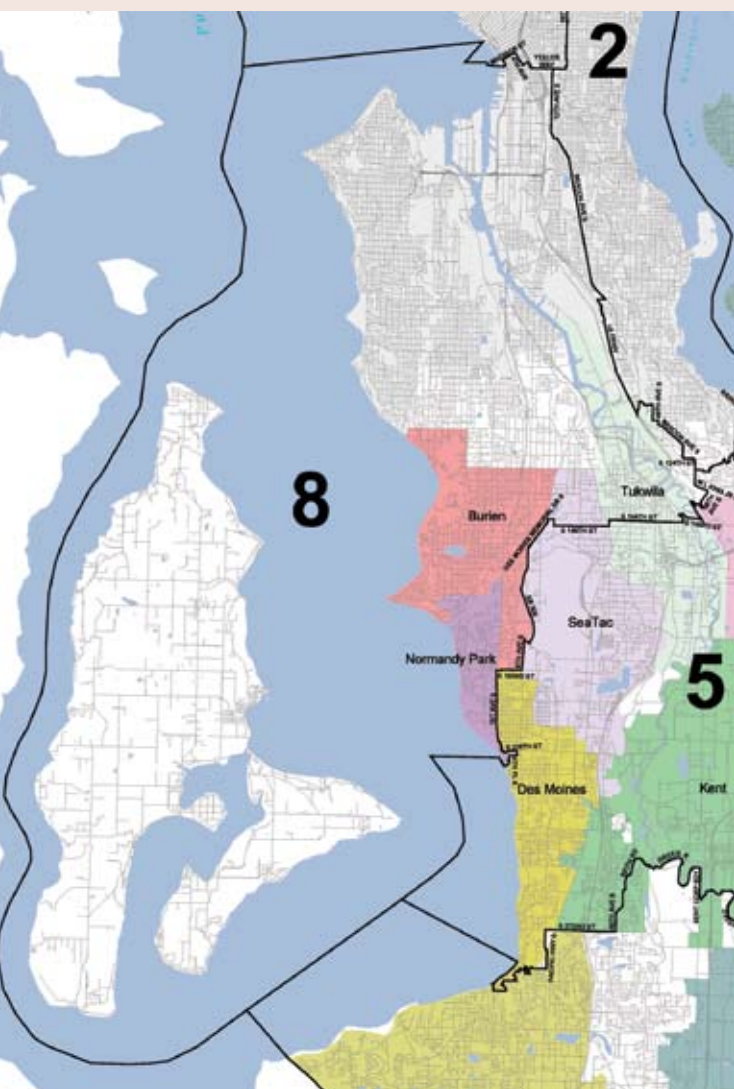
What King County does for you

King County government provides regional services—the kind of services that benefit all citizens of King County. These include the everyday infrastructure that makes our lives work, such as Metro Transit and sewage treatment, plus five major criminal justice functions: District Court, Superior Court, adult detention, juvenile detention, and the King County Sheriff's Office. King County owns and operates the region's major trauma center and public health hospital (Harborview Medical Center), a major airport (King County International, aka

"Boeing Field"), and regional parks and trails. King County is also responsible for public health, veterans' programs, emergency medical services, 911 dispatching and much more.

For the 356,000 unincorporated area residents, a jurisdiction equivalent to the second largest city in the state, King County provides **local** government services, such as roads, police, and enforcement of housing and zoning codes. Unincorporated communities in the Eighth District include Vashon/Maury Islands, North Highline, and West Hill. King County also provides these same local government services to many of King County's 39 cities on a **contract** basis.

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Highline Symphonic Band includes musicians of all ages

Opportunities to perform with a large musical group shouldn't end with high school graduation.

That's the spirit behind the Highline Community Symphonic Band, which presents concerts of traditional band music free of charge and provides a performance home to skilled musicians of all ages. Formed in 1971 by parents of band members at Tyee High School (under the direction of Tyee band director Wally Rantz), the group has since established itself as a premier community wind band and a favorite at South County concert venues.

As a bonus for concert audiences, group members have formed several small ensembles (such as saxophone trio, flute quartet, and brass quintet) that often play during post-concert refreshment and socializing time.

Ron Hazenberg has served as the group's musical director and conductor for the past 12 years. Formerly the director of bands at Evergreen High School, Hazenberg now directs the bands at Federal Way's Ilahsee Middle School.

For more information on the Highline Community Symphonic Band, go to www.highlineband.org.

Des Moines Memorial Drive renovations celebrated

I recently joined a group of dedicated South King County citizens to celebrate the renovation of Des Moines Memorial Drive.

Lined with hundreds of elm trees, the drive was dedicated in 1921 as a living memorial to state residents who gave their lives in World War I. Unfortunately, this wonderful community treasure was allowed to decay over the years.

But the community never forgot Des Moines Memorial Drive.

An interlocal agreement allowing for the renovation and restoration of this historic asset was signed by King County and the cities of Burien, SeaTac, and Normandy Park in 2000. Since then, the Des Moines Memorial Drive Advisory Committee has helped create a plan to add public art, historic markers, new parks, and to make other corridor improvements that carry the spirit and purpose of Des Moines Memorial Drive into the next century.

The King County Road Services Division recently completed a road project on Des Moines Memorial Drive between South 99th Street and South 128th Street. The road was made safer for motorists and bicyclists and new sidewalks incorporating more than 230 memorial markers were built.



Crossing Des Moines Memorial Drive South on a tour of King County's recent road and sidewalk improvements



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